

March 6, 1980

LB 974

can limit political contributions, ladies and gentlemen, but there is no way that you can limit the political attacks upon an individual who does not represent the point of view of a particular section of the news media. If that happens, the time will come when only the wishy-washy individuals who refuse to accept the mandates of a self-annointed, self-appointed conscience will ever be elected to office. We have watched over the years and we have seen the elected people eventually leave the elective process because they refuse to be submitted to the kind of harassment which a great many elected people have to endure.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I have no qualms about being able to take care of myself but I want those individuals who choose to run for office, who perhaps do not have the same amount of courage and backbone that some of us have, to feel they can do so without being coerced by anyone inside or outside of the media. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I ask that the bill not be advanced to the floor.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we work and live under a government of law and not a government of promise or a government of people and the motion that is before the House is to bring up LB 974 in its original form for consideration before this Legislature and those who have read LB 974 will be chagrined of what they find contained in that bill particularly with the definition of government contractor which I really believe is every single elected member of this Legislature. Therefore, you can serve in the Legislature but you cannot run for it. There would be amendments offered to 974 if this motion is successful and we are having a tendency to discuss those amendments which in no way, under any procedure are a part of the motion to which we are addressing. If those amendments had been given to the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee, it is possible that the committee would have used those as committee amendments and advanced the bill under our standard procedures of public hearing, executive session, advance to General File and debate the bill. This is not the case nor the procedure that we have in front of us at this time, but by a vote of 25 votes we would introduce a new bill into the Legislature with an old number on it without a public hearing to be advanced maybe. The procedure and the rule is that we are voting to advance LB 974 to the floor of this Legislature in its